

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A system for providing a messaging service comprising ATM virtual paths/virtual channels over a digital subscriber loop, the system further comprising:

a service control processor configured for monitoring and processing an incoming call via associated signaling from an ATM switch, the incoming call to be delivered over the digital subscriber loop to a receiving device ~~capable of~~ configured for processing a first ATM virtual path/virtual channel corresponding to the incoming call; and

a message processor ~~capable of~~ configured for receiving a message via a second ATM virtual path/virtual channel; and wherein the service control processor is configured for determining whether the incoming call is answered by the receiving device and routing the incoming call to the message processor via the second ATM virtual path/virtual channel when the incoming call is not answered by the receiving device; wherein the second ATM channel routed from the service control processor directly to the receiving device is configured to signal to the receiving device for indicating when an awaiting voicemail message exists.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the receiving device is a customer premises equipment.

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the message processor ~~may be~~ is part of the service control processor.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the determination of whether the incoming call is answered by the receiving device is by use of a timer.
5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4 wherein the value of the timer ~~may be~~ is varied.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the message comprises a voice mail message.
7. (Currently amended) A method for providing a messaging service comprising ATM virtual paths/virtual channels over a digital subscriber loop, the method comprising:
  - monitoring and processing an incoming call via associated signaling from an ATM switch, the incoming call to be delivered over the digital subscriber loop to a receiving device ~~capable of~~ configured for processing a first ATM virtual path/virtual channel corresponding to the incoming call;
  - determining whether the incoming call is answerable by the receiving device;
  - and
  - routing the incoming call to a message processor via a second ATM virtual path/virtual channel when the incoming call is not answerable by the receiving device based on the determining step; wherein the second ATM channel routed from the service control processor directly to the receiving device is configured to signal to the receiving device when an awaiting voicemail message exists.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the receiving device is a customer premises equipment.

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9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the message processor is part of the service processor.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the determination of whether an incoming call is answerable by the receiving device is by determining whether the receiving device is off-hook.